

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Robert G. Taub, Acting Chairman;
Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman;
Mark Acton;
Ruth Y. Goldway; and
Nanci E. Langley

Competitive Product Prices
Bilateral Agreement Between United States Postal Service
and Royal Mail Group, Ltd. (CP2015-1)
Negotiated Service Agreement

Docket No. CP2015-1

ORDER GRANTING SECOND MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RELIEF

(Issued November 2, 2015)

The negotiated service agreement approved in this proceeding (Existing Agreement) is scheduled to expire on November 15, 2015.¹ The Postal Service has filed a second motion for temporary relief requesting an extension of the expiration date until December 31, 2015.²

The Postal Service states it sent a modification to Royal Mail Group, Ltd., extending the Existing Agreement to December 31, 2015, and the Postal Service

¹ Order Granting Motion for Temporary Relief, September 24, 2015 (Order No. 2729). See also Notice of Filing Modification to Outbound Competitive International Merchandise Return Service Agreement with Royal Mail Group, Ltd., October 23, 2015.

² United States Postal Service Motion for Temporary Relief Concerning a Competitive Multi-Service Agreement with a Foreign Postal Operator, October 30, 2015 (Motion).

believes the counterparty contact is working to obtain a signature, but the modification has not yet been signed. Motion at 1. To maintain continuity of pricing and other terms and conditions, the Postal Service requests that the Commission grant its second request for temporary relief and keep the agreement on the Mail Classification Schedule through December 31, 2015. *Id.* at 2. The Postal Service also states that it plans to file the modification and any successor agreement with the Commission as soon as possible. *Id.*

The instant motion marks the Postal Service's second request for temporary relief within 40 days. The Postal Service provides that there have been difficulties in resolving operations issues for exchanging returns between the two countries, and the counterparty's contact has been working to secure a signature. *Id.* at 1. However, given that the delay is due to an inability of the foreign postal operator, and in the interest in maintaining continuity for the Postal Service's customer, the lack of an identified harm to the public interest or other mailers, and the Commission's expectation that a successor agreement will be filed as soon as possible, the Commission grants the Motion.

The Existing Agreement may continue through and will expire on December 31, 2015, unless terminated earlier pursuant to the terms of the agreement.

It is ordered:

1. The United States Postal Service Motion for Temporary Relief Concerning a Competitive Multi-Service Agreement with a Foreign Postal Operator, filed October 30, 2015, is granted.

2. The Existing Agreement will remain on the Mail Classification Schedule through December 31, 2015, unless terminated earlier pursuant to the terms of the agreement.

By the Commission.

Stacy L. Ruble
Secretary